

## *SENIOR POPULATION*



*Pictured above is Immanuel House, a senior housing complex on Woodland Street.*

Asylum Hill is home to about 12% of Hartford's 26,000 over 65 population. There are five (5) senior housing complexes in the Hill with approximately 920 units. They are all subsidized with tenants paying 30% of their income for rent and utilities, unless their income indicates they can pay market price. Thus all income, educational and cultural levels live together in great diversity. Presently, under remodeling is a 79 unit senior housing residence on Sumner street due to open in May 1998.

Two city-owned buildings for seniors are shared with younger disabled tenants. This has caused some friction as some of these tenants have substance abuse problems. This federal mandate was lifted last year and seniors are pressing the legislature to restrict senior housing to seniors only and provide other suitable housing with special program activities to meet the needs of this younger disabled or addicted population.

There are a large number of seniors in market-priced housing who require services. Every effort is made to keep seniors in their own homes as long as possible with many City, State and Federal Programs, but safe, secure, well supervised affordable senior housing should be an option which we must pursue. At the same time, we must also see that other low income and variously disadvantaged people have housing throughout the City (not only in Asylum Hill), in which they are not just "housed". Rather, they have whatever services are needed to make them less disadvantaged and more capable and productive to the City. This may mean that a Program Director be provided for each senior or disadvantaged residence.

HOUSING	EFFICIENCY	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBSIDIZED APARTMENTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF TENANTS
Immanuel House 15 Woodland Street	144	57	-----	201	220
Kent Apartments* 188 Sigourney	-----	50	-----	50	50
Betty Knox Apartments* 141 Woodland Street	132	67	-----	199	135
Shepherd Park** 170 Sisson Avenue	17	230	66	313	450
Sigourney Square Housing 280-282 Sigourney Street	-----	42	-----	42	45
Ten Marshall House 10 Marshall Street	32	83	-----	115	83

*\*City owned "Low Cost" Housing: Presently trying to combat problems of mandated disabled and addicted who have no supervision or programs to make a meaningful life. Although these both started as senior housing, the mandate (since reduced to no more than 10% of total space) has still not resulted in better housing for these groups of disadvantaged.*

*\*\*Shepherd Park: Technically located in the West End, its senior tenants (many former Hill residents) utilize senior services at Salvation Army, Immanuel House, St. Francis Hospital and the new Senior Health and Wellness Center, various churches and senior education and services at Capitol Community Technical College, all in Asylum Hill.*

### **Transportation for Seniors**

Asylum Hill's senior population is served by Connecticut Transit buses for which seniors pay half fare, or Dial-A-Ride Vans for which they pay \$20.00 a year for one daily round trip ride. The ADA Van for mobility impaired is available at \$2.00 a ride. Both must be reserved 24 hours in advance. On a regular route seniors can hop a grocery shopping bus on stated days.